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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/743,666	01/10/2001	Jeffery Raymond Ratkus	DN1998124US	5727

7590

08/12/2003

Frederick K Lacher
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EXAMINER

PRONE, JASON D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3724

12

DATE MAILED: 08/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/743,666

Applicant(s)

RATKUS ET AL.

Examiner

Jason Prone

Art Unit

3724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 May 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 9-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 9-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 23 May 2003 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-5, 9, 11, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Still et al.

Still et al. discloses the same invention including a cutting apparatus for cutting ply stock (Abstract) along a cut line between first and second lateral edges (Figs. 5A and 6A), a knife assembly (49), means for moving the knife assembly toward and away from the ply stock (Figs. 16 and 17), means for traversing the knife assembly between a first and a second lateral edge of the ply stock (16), a blade (121) having a cutting portion (Fig. 23) including a leading point (123) and a leading and trailing edge having a length (122 and 124), that the ply stock has spaced first and second lateral edges (12), that the knife assembly has a home position where the leading point of the blade is directly above an insertion point and that the distance between the first lateral edge and the insertion point is less than or equal to the length of the trailing edge (Fig. 23), that the knife assembly traverses across the ply stock to provide severance of the material from the first lateral edge to the second lateral edge (Fig. 10A), a means for heating the knife (Column 11 lines 58-65), that the knife is heated before inserting into the ply stock (Column 11 lines 58-65), that the heating means is near the first lateral edge of the ply

Art Unit: 3724

stock (Column 11 lines 58-65), and that the leading edge of the cutting portion engages with the ply stock (Fig. 23)

3. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Still et al. in view of Murphy et al. Still et al. discloses the invention but fails to disclose an anvil with a slot aligned with the cut line. Murphy et al. teaches an anvil (36) with a slot (38) aligned with the cut line (Fig. 4). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have provided Still et al. with an anvil, as taught by Murphy et al., to allow for a more efficient cut.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5 and 6-12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason Prone whose telephone number is 703-605-4287. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00, Mon - (every other) Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan N. Shoap can be reached on 703-308-1082. In lieu of mailing, it is encouraged that all formal responses be faxed to 703-872-9302.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.

Application/Control Number: 09/743,666
Art Unit: 3724

Page 4

A handwritten signature, possibly reading 'JP', consisting of two loops and a trailing stroke.

JP
August 6, 2003

A handwritten signature, possibly reading 'Allan N. Shoap', consisting of a cursive 'A' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Allan N. Shoap
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700